

minister. During the greater proportion of the early history of this church, they were able to support the public preaching of the Gospel by uniting with some neighboring church. The first pastor settled over this church was the Rev. Henry A. Boyce. He was installed July 8th, 1835. He labored but a little more than a year, when he was called away by death. Rev. Anthony McReynolds succeeded him as pastor, and remained about two years. The next pastor was the Rev. Daniel Higbie. After a very acceptable and useful pastorate of six years, he was called away by ill health. The *writer of this history* was the next succeeding pastor of this church. It is now upwards of ten years since he commenced his pastoral labors in this congregation.

A few years after the organization of this church, it became obvious that they must have a house of public worship. All the private houses where they had been accustomed to worship, had become "too strait" for them. A house was consequently built on the first North and South Road, east of the village, connecting the Newburg and Bethany turnpikes. Its size was 48 by 24 feet. It was formed by building an addition of twenty-four feet square to a school-house of the same size. The two parts were thrown into one by a swing partition. In this effort, all denominations cordially united. So perfectly did this plan commend itself to all the citizens, that the same week it was suggested all the materials were brought upon the ground, and during the next week it was so nearly completed, that it was occupied for the purpose in-

tended on the following Sabbath. This was in the year 1822, and it was the first house of public worship ever built in this town. Poor as it might now be considered as a place of public worship, it was then regarded as a valuable accomplishment. Many persons from six to seven miles distant regularly worshipped in this house. It was common for many of them to walk this distance to and from the meeting. Some of them who still survive have their happiest seasons of religious worship associated with that old house.

"How charming is the place
Where my Redeemer, God,
Unveils the glories of his face,
And sheds his love abroad!"

"There from his eyes I met the heavenly beam,
That kindled in my soul this deathless flame."

The Presbyterian congregation erected a church edifice in 1830.* This building is 45 by 55 feet. With the exception of the church in Bethany,† this was the first Presbyterian Church built in Wayne County. It was refitted and improved in 1850 at a cost of \$700. In 1833 a colony of 31 members went off from this church to form another church of the same denomination in an adjoining town.

In 1832 the Methodist Society erected a plain and commodious house of worship about two miles east of the village, on the Bethany turnpike, and dedicated it on the 4th of July of that year. It was refitted and greatly improved in 1851.

* A charter was granted them September 21st, 1831.

† The Presbyterian Church in Bethany was erected in 1828.